

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

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**DECISION**

**TOPIC      Conveyance of Wanata State Park, Clay County**

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The Natural Resource Commission's approval is requested for the transfer of ownership of Wanata State Park (Wanata) from the state to Clay County for use by the Clay County Conservation Board (Board).

Wanata contains approximately 160 acres located immediately south of the City of Peterson in extreme southwestern Clay County. It was acquired by the state over the period of 1934 through 1941. Wanata is primarily timbered and is traversed by the Little Sioux River.

Wanata is currently managed by DNR Parks Bureau staff as a satellite area due to its remote location from other DNR parks. The Board has requested Wanata be transferred to Clay County, who is in the process of acquiring 80 acres adjacent to the southwest boundary of Wanata and proposes combining the two areas for management. They have long range plans to significantly enhance the public's use and enjoyment of the park. Plans include construction of a new boat ramp and parking area. The Board believes that consolidation of management and ownership will improve their ability to secure financial support for improvements. Also, the City of Peterson has approached the Board indicating their desire to participate in improving and managing the park.

Iowa Code Section 461A.32 allows for the proposed conveyance without consideration, and requires that the conveyances contain a reversion provision that provides when such lands cease to be used as a public park, title will revert to the state.

Attachment

Linda Hanson, Administrator  
Management Services Division  
April 12, 2007